

Application No. 10/006,874
Reply to Office Action of June 19, 2006

REMARKS

Claims 1-27, 29-34, 36-54, 57-59, 63-68, 70-98, 110-113, and 118-121 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-27, 29-34, 36-54, 57-59, 63-68, 70-98, 110-113, and 118-121 have been allowed by the Examiner. Claims 70-98 have been withdrawn from consideration in compliance with a previous election requirement. Claims 35 and 114-117 have been canceled. Accordingly, no new matter has been added to the application by the foregoing amendments.

Entry of Rule 116 Response

After the foregoing Amendment, claims 1-27, 29-34, 36-54, 57-59, 63-68, 70-98, 110-113, and 118-121 are pending in this application. Applicants respectfully request that the Amendment After Final be entered in accordance with 37 CFR §1.116 and MPEP 714.13 since: (1) no new matter has been added to the application by the Amendment; (2) the Amendment resolves all issues raised by the Examiner in the Final Office Action; (3) the subject matter of the Amendment already has been included in the Examiner's search and therefore does not require the Examiner to perform further searching; (4) the Amendment places the application in condition for allowance or in better form for appeal; and (5) the Amendment does not result in a net addition of claims to the application.

Claim Rejection – § 102

The Examiner has rejected claims 35 and 115-117 under 35 USC §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,909,837 to Unger ("Unger"). Although not included in the formal rejection, the Examiner has confirmed via telephone communication on June 27, 2006, that the Examiner also considers claim 114 to be anticipated by Unger, and therefore rejected. Applicants have canceled claims 35 and 114-117. Therefore the Examiner's rejection of these claims is moot. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection of claims 35 and 114-117 are respectfully requested.

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Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejection has been overcome, and that the application, including claims 1-27, 29-34, 36-54, 57-59, 63-68, 110-113, and 118-121, is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the Examiner's rejection and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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